(c) whether it is a fact that there is a long delay in issuing passport by Kozhikode Passport office; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to reduce the delay in issuing passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representations received regarding the functioning of Passport Office at Kozhikode mainly highlight the delay in the issue of passports and the inconvenience that this continues to cause to the applicants in Kerala State.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government is taking steps to augment the staff strength at passport offices and to streamline procedure to reduce delays in the issue of passports, caused by increased number of applications and the consequent inadequacy of staff, to the minimum.

Burton Bill for cutting U.S. aid to India

1518. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Burton Bill was mooted in the United States to cut 24 Million dollars U.S. aid to India recently;

(b) whether Burton Bill is a fall out of the Amnesty International report that was published earlier; and

(c) what action Government are taking to contain vilification campaign going on in U.S. and other Western Countries in the name of Amnesty International?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) An amendment moved by Congressman Dan Burton to cut US 24 million in funding for Development Assistance in the Foregin Aid Bill for Fiscal Year 1993 was adopted by the US House of Representatives. This amendment does not name any country.

(b) In the debate on the Burton amendment, references were made to Government's policy towards Amnesty International.

(c) Government have widely disseminated information on the factual position regarding the allegations made by Amnesty International. Our Missions in the US and other Western countries have projected India's viewpoint through personal contacts with political leaders, Government officials, media representatives and other organisations and individuals concerned.

यूरोपीय समुदाय के शिष्टमंडल के साथ वार्ता

1519. **श्री छोटूभाई पटेल** : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यूरोपीय समुदाय के मंत्री स्तर के तीन-सदस्यीय शिष्टमंडल ने हाल ही में विदेश मंत्री की अध्यक्षता में एक भारतीय शिष्टमंडल से वार्ता की थी ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसमें किन-किन विषयों पर चर्चा की गयी थी ; और

(ग) उसके क्या परिणाम निकले हैं ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एडुअर्डो फेलेरियो) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) और (ग) बातचीत के दौरान दोनों पक्षों ने आर्थिक सहयोग का विस्तार बढ़ाने की सम्भावना पर विचार-विमर्श किया ताकि भारत और यूरोपीय समुदाय के बीच और अधिक घनिष्ठ संबंध कायम किए जा सकें । उन्होंने हो चुके तथा हो रहे सार्वभौमिक परिवर्तनों पर भी व्यापक विचार विनिमय किया ।